

Workman Place
South East Philadelphia, Pa.

HABS PA - 133

HABS
PA
SI-PHILA,
42-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of Pennsylvania

HISTORICAL AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
Joseph P. Sims, District Officer
2008 Architects Building, Philadelphia, Penna.

ADDENDUM
FOLLOWS...

WORKMAN PLACE

On Pemberton Street west of
Front Street and South of Bainbridge
Philadelphia, Pa.

Owner - The Octavia Hill Association for the Better
Housing of the Poor.

Date of Erection - 1748 and later

Architect - Unknown

Builder - Unknown

Present Condition - Good

Materials of Construction - A group of brick buildings around a courtyard. An iron gate set in a high brick wall leads to a little court in which two small houses face each other. In the gable walls toward the street are the letters "GM" and the date 1748 formed by black headers. These small houses, of no architectural pretensions in themselves form a charming group, and the entrance elevation from Pemberton Street (unfortunately not shown in the accompanying photographs) is particularly attractive.

History - Built by George Mifflin in 1748, who was the father of Governor Thomas Mifflin. John Mifflin, the grandson of the builder sold the court to John Workman of South Carolina, who added some more houses and the court is still known as "Workman Place"

Bibliography - Brandt's "Byways and Boulevards in and about Historic Philadelphia"

August 31, 1937

Joseph P. Sims

Joseph P. Sims, A.I.A.
District Officer

W 9/3/37

Workman Place
742-46 S. Front Street
Philadelphia
Philadelphia County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-133

Addendum to:

Workman Place
South East
Philadelphia
Pennsylvania
(as recorded in 1937)

HABS
PA,
51-PA14,
42-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE	COUNTY	TOWN OR VICINITY
PENNSYLVANIA	PHILADELPHIA	PHILADELPHIA
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME)		HABS NO.
WORKMAN PLACE		PA-133
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES)		
742-46 S. Front St. and rear, at SW corner Pemberton St.		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE)	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE)	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE)		
Workman Place is a group of tenement houses arranged around a court. 742-46 S. Front Street houses were built 1812-13 for John Workman, a lumber merchant. Seven smaller tenements (Tenements 1-7) at rear of 742-746 S. Front Street were built in 1748 for George Mifflin, grandfather of the first Governor of Pennsylvania.		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE)		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS)		
All houses are of brick construction.		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE)		
742-46 S. Front Street: three-and-a-half stories. Tenements 1-7: two-and-a-half stories.		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE		
The front doorways of 742-46 S. Front Street houses were originally arched. The initials, "GM" (for George Mifflin), on north wall of Tenements 1-2 is formed by black headers, as is "1748" on north wall of Tenements 3-4.		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED)		
The following interior descriptions are from 1813 insurance surveys for the houses. 742-46 S. Front Street: 2 rooms to each story (usually), mantles with reeded columns, plain mantles, surbases, cased windows, wainscoted surbases in hallways, stucco cornices. (Con't. on p. 2)		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.)		
Webster, Richard. <u>Philadelphia Preserved</u> . Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1976. 1813 insurance surveys for 742-46 S. Front Street houses and Tenements 1-7; insurance company not known.		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION	DATE	
Susan McCown, Historic American Buildings Survey	March 20, 1984	

INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (continued from page 1):

Tenements 1-7: plain mantles, cased windows, plain trim, one room to each story.